

What Does the Southwestern Union Conference Department of Education Do? The team members work both individually and cooperatively to:

- Educate our Seventh-day Adventist Christian teachers to do an ever better job through workshops, classroom visits, newsletters, seminars, and personal counsel
- Coordinate our educational work among conferences and the North American Division
- Provide guidance and counsel for teachers, principals, and superintendents as well as assistance in attending workshops, conventions, and seminars
- Guide in the selection of textbooks and curricular materials to be used in all of our schools, K-12
- Develop curricular materials to meet the needs of this particular field while working with the NAD in developing materials for all of North America
- Lead out in marketing Seventh-day Adventist Christian education across our field through materials, training, and promotional activities
- Administer a strong denominational teacher certification program for all Southwestern Union teachers
- Participate in and provide guidance to a strong school evaluation and accreditation program
- Coordinate educational calendar items across the Union
- Provide funding and guidance for a variety of teacher in-service training activities
- Oversee policy development and administration to maintain accountability and order in our educational system
- Serve as caring counselors and listeners to both educators and constituents, assisting with mediation and conciliation on occasion
- Follow trends in education, filtering and guiding our teachers and schools in meeting the changing educational needs of our field
- Foster research into various aspects of our educational programs, using the results to enhance our educational product
- Work with other Union and Division personnel in making major, division-wide curricular and policy decisions
- Advise the Southwestern Union Executive Committee, Union administrators, and Conference administrators in educational matters
- Prepare appropriate reports to meet Division, State, and National requirements
- Assist with the planning and application process for schools to move to junior academy and full academy status
- Work with Southwestern Adventist University in enhancing its teacher preparation program and also in assisting teachers in improving and maintaining their teacher certification
- Guide academies and other schools in developing appropriate budgets while also developing and administering the Southwestern Union Conference K-12 budget
- Evaluate and authorize experimental programs in Southwestern Union Conference schools
- Serve actively as members of boards and committees that consider educational issues across the Southwestern Union Conference

- Establish denominational graduation requirements for both elementary and secondary schools
- Design curriculum and instruction to prepare and involve students K-12 in active participation in the total Church program
- Ensure the inclusion of approved formal Seventh-day Adventist Christian religious instruction for all students in grades K-12
- Build a warm and caring Seventh-day Adventist Christian education family here in the Southwest